

CMS. An ACO's eligibility for shared savings will be determined for each performance year. For an ACO requesting interim payment, shared savings may result from the interim payment system calculation.

*Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)* means a Federal taxpayer identification number or employer identification number as defined by the IRS in 26 CFR 301.6109-1.

*Two-sided model* means a model under which the ACO may share savings with the Medicare program, if it meets the requirements for doing so, and is also liable for sharing any losses incurred under subpart G of this part.

### **Subpart B—Shared Savings Program Eligibility Requirements**

#### **§ 425.100 General.**

(a) Under the Shared Savings Program, ACO participants may work together to manage and coordinate care for Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries through an ACO that meets the criteria specified in this part. The ACO must become accountable for the quality, cost, and overall care of the Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries assigned to the ACO.

(b) ACOs that meet or exceed a minimum savings rate established under § 425.604 or § 425.606, meet the minimum quality performance standards established under § 425.500, and otherwise maintain their eligibility to participate in the Shared Savings Program under this part are eligible to receive payments for shared savings under subpart G.

(c) ACOs that operate under the two-sided model and meet or exceed a minimum loss rate established under § 425.606 must share losses with the Medicare program under subpart G of the part.

#### **§ 425.102 Eligible providers and suppliers.**

(a) The following ACO participants or combinations of ACO participants are eligible to form an ACO that may apply to participate in the Shared Savings Program:

(1) ACO professionals in group practice arrangements.

(2) Networks of individual practices of ACO professionals.

(3) Partnerships or joint venture arrangements between hospitals and ACO professionals.

(4) Hospitals employing ACO professionals.

(5) CAHs that bill under Method II (as described in § 413.70(b)(3) of this chapter).

(6) RHCs.

(7) FQHCs.

(b) Other ACO participants that are not identified in paragraph (a) of this section are eligible participate through an ACO formed by one or more of the ACO participants identified in paragraph (a) of this section.

#### **§ 425.104 Legal entity.**

(a) An ACO must be a legal entity, formed under applicable State, Federal, or Tribal law, and authorized to conduct business in each State in which it operates for purposes of the following:

(1) Receiving and distributing shared savings.

(2) Repaying shared losses or other monies determined to be owed to CMS.

(3) Establishing, reporting, and ensuring provider compliance with health care quality criteria, including quality performance standards.

(4) Fulfilling other ACO functions identified in this part.

(b) An ACO formed by two or more otherwise independent ACO participants must be a legal entity separate from any of its ACO participants.

#### **§ 425.106 Shared governance.**

(a) *General rule.* An ACO must maintain an identifiable governing body with authority to execute the functions of an ACO as defined under this part, including but not limited to, the processes defined under § 425.112 to promote evidence-based medicine and patient engagement, report on quality and cost measures, and coordinate care.

(b) *Responsibilities of the governing body and its members.* (1) The governing body must have responsibility for oversight and strategic direction of the ACO, holding ACO management accountable for the ACO's activities as described in this part.

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(2) The governing body must have a transparent governing process.

(3) The governing body members must have a fiduciary duty to the ACO and must act consistent with that fiduciary duty.

(4) The governing body of the ACO must be separate and unique to the ACO in cases where the ACO comprises multiple, otherwise independent ACO participants.

(5) If the ACO is an existing entity, the ACO governing body may be the same as the governing body of that existing entity, provided it satisfies the other requirements of this section.

(c) *Composition and control of the governing body.* (1) The ACO must provide for meaningful participation in the composition and control of the ACO's governing body for ACO participants or their designated representatives.

(2) The ACO governing body must include a Medicare beneficiary representative(s) served by the ACO who does not have a conflict of interest with the ACO, and who has no immediate family member with conflict of interest with the ACO.

(3) At least 75 percent control of the ACO's governing body must be held by ACO participants.

(4) The governing body members may serve in a similar or complementary manner for an ACO participant.

(5) In cases in which the composition of the ACO's governing body does not meet the requirements of paragraphs (c)(2) and (c)(3) of this section, the ACO must describe why it seeks to differ from these requirements and how the ACO will involve ACO participants in innovative ways in ACO governance or provide meaningful representation in ACO governance by Medicare beneficiaries.

(d) *Conflict of interest.* The ACO governing body must have a conflict of interest policy that applies to members of the governing body. The conflict of interest policy must—

(1) Require each member of the governing body to disclose relevant financial interests; and

(2) Provide a procedure to determine whether a conflict of interest exists and set forth a process to address any conflicts that arise.

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(3) The conflict of interest policy must address remedial action for members of the governing body that fail to comply with the policy.

### § 425.108 Leadership and management.

(a) An ACO must have a leadership and management structure that includes clinical and administrative systems that align with and support the goals of the Shared Savings Program and the aims of better care for individuals, better health for populations, and lower growth in expenditures.

(b) The ACO's operations must be managed by an executive, officer, manager, general partner, or similar party whose appointment and removal are under the control of the ACO's governing body and whose leadership team has demonstrated the ability to influence or direct clinical practice to improve efficiency processes and outcomes.

(c) Clinical management and oversight must be managed by a senior-level medical director who is a physician and one of its ACO providers/suppliers, who is physically present on a regular basis at any clinic, office, or other location participating in the ACO, and who is a board-certified physician and licensed in a State in which the ACO operates.

(d) Each ACO participant and each ACO provider/supplier must demonstrate a meaningful commitment to the mission of the ACO to ensure the ACO's likely success.

(1) Meaningful commitment may include, for example, a sufficient financial or human investment (for example, time and effort) in the ongoing operations of the ACO such that the potential loss or recoupment of the investment is likely to motivate the ACO participant and ACO provider/supplier to achieve the ACO's mission under the Shared Savings Program.

(2) A meaningful commitment can be shown when an ACO participant or ACO provider/supplier agrees to comply with and implement the ACO's processes required by § 425.112 and is held accountable for meeting the ACO's performance standards for each required process.

(e) CMS retains the right to give consideration to an innovative ACO with a